



H.R. 4341 – To extend the trade adjustment assistance program under the Trade Act of 1974 for 3 months

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 4341 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Sander Levin (D-MI) on December 10, 2007. It was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee, but never considered

H.R. 4341 is expected to be considered on the floor on December 11, 2007.

BACKGROUND

The Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program is designed to assist workers who have lost jobs or work hours due to increased imports. The program provides job training assistance, income support, a job search allowance, and relocation reimbursement for qualified applicants for a certain period of time. Workers who qualify are also eligible for a tax credit to help cover the cost of purchasing health care coverage.

The program was established by the Trade Expansion Act of 1962. It was most recently reauthorized and expanded in 2002 by P.L. 107-210. A short-term, 90-day extension passed the House by voice vote on September 25, 2007. It was signed into law (P.L. 110-89) on September 28, 2007. These authorities are currently set to expire on December 31, 2007.

According to Rep. Wally Herger, the Ranking Republican on the Ways and Means Trade Subcommittee, "TAA can be a valuable tool for getting people retrained and back to work quickly, providing income support in the interim. But, TAA's annual cost of nearly \$1 billion means that any expansion must be done in a cost conscious manner focusing on actual results, particularly because less than 3 percent of long term job loss is due to trade."

SUMMARY

H.R. 4341 provides a short-term, 90-day extension for the Trade Adjustment Assistance program. Under the bill, these authorities will expire on March 31, 2008.

COST

There was no Congressional Budget Office Estimate available for H.R. 4341 at the time of publication. The CBO estimated that implementing the previous short-term extension (H.R. 3375) would increase direct spending by \$9 million over the 2008-2012 period.

[CBO Estimate – H.R. 3375, Trade Adjustment Assistance Program Reauthorization Act](#)

STAFF CONTACT

For questions or further information contact Shea Loper at (202) 226-2302.